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By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY  
**FERGUSON:** Students fear  
jeopardizing jobs, he says.

## An activist faces apathy

PROVIDENCE, R.I. —  
"Sometimes I feel like say-  
ing: 'Hey guys, doesn't any-  
one around here care any  
more?'" Chris Ferguson la-  
ments.

The Brown University  
sophomore is a leader in  
Students Against Nuclear  
Suicide, the group behind a  
recent headline-making  
campus vote to stock the  
health center with "suicide"  
pills in case of nuclear at-  
tack. He signed a petition to  
bar a CIA recruiter's cam-  
pus visit and is a member of  
several environmental  
groups.

This fall's outburst of ac-  
tivism at Brown has "polar-  
ized the campus," the soft-  
spoken 22-year-old says.

"Most students' eyes  
glaze over when you start  
talking about issues. They  
have a different attitude  
about how they're going to  
guarantee a secure future.  
... Their means to an end is  
to work hard in school, do  
all the things that look good  
on a resume and get a good  
job. To take a stand would  
be a black mark against  
them that would jeopardize  
their future."

Ferguson's activism  
evolved from reading, tak-  
ing courses such as Perspec-  
tives on Nuclear War and  
"hanging out with people  
who are concerned and just  
talking about issues."

Now he's helping to set up  
a campus "rainbow coali-  
tion," bringing diverse stu-  
dent and faculty groups to-  
gether for political and so-  
cial reform.

He's committed to work-  
ing for causes he believes  
in, but "I'm getting a little  
cynical. Most people just  
don't want to bother."